

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 129838  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES:JD  
APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON  
P:JFORBES (INFO)  
S/S-O:SSTEINER

-----062003Z 087110 /66

O 061941Z JUN 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 129838

EXDIS, LONDON FOR KINSOLVING

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PLOS, ENRG, LY, TS, US

SUBJECT: CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE: MEETING IN LONDON

1. CHARLES THORNTON, PRESIDENT OF READING & BATES, TELEPHONED VELIOTES TODAY (1800 LONDON TIME) TO PASS ON THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION.
2. THE LIBYAN DELEGATION COMPRISING NOC CHAIRMAN OMAR MUNTASSER AND BASHIR KHALIL ARRIVED LATER THAN EXPECTED IN LONDON. LIBYANS REQUESTED AND COMPANY AGREED TO POSTPONE FIRST MEETING UNTIL 0900 TOMORROW (LONDON TIME).
3. IN COURSE GIVING THORNTON REQUESTED UPDATE ON SITUATION, VELIOTES TOLD HIM THAT WE HAD NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT POSITION OF TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT RE DEMAND FOR  
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IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF RIG WOULD BE MODIFIED BY TOMORROW'S MEETING IN TUNIS WITH ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL MOHAMMAD RIAD, LIBYAN FOREIGN MINISTER, AND GOT OFFICIALS. ASSURED THORNTON HE WOULD BE KEPT CURRENT ON ANY PERTINENT DEVELOPMENTS.

4. WE HAVE INFORMED AMBASSADOR ALI HEDDA OF FOREGOING.

5. FOR TUNIS: PLEASE KEEP DEPARTMENT AND OTHER ADDRESSEES INFORMED RE ANY SUBSTANTIVE DEVELOPMENTS WHICH MAY RESULT

FROM TOMORROW'S SCHEDULED MEETING IN TUNIS. IT IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT THAT WE KNOW IF THERE IS ANY CHANGE IN TUNISIAN POSITION DEMANDING IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF RIG.

IF THERE IS A CHANGE, WE SHOULD INFORM THE COMPANY ASAP. WE HAVE A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF INSTITUTIONAL AND SENIOR PERSONAL CREDIBILITY INVOLVED IN THIS MATTER. WE WOULD EXPECT THE TUNISIANS TO BE CANDID AND PROMPT IN BRIEFING AMBASSADOR MULCAHEY ABOUT THESE MEETINGS. AMBASSADOR MIGHT WISH TO INDICATE OUR INTEREST IN BEING SO INFORMED AT HIGHEST APPROPRIATE LEVEL, IF THERE IS ANY DOUBT ON THIS SCORE. (FYI: IN CONVERSATION REFERRED TO ABOVE, THORNTON TOLD US FRANKLY (FOR FIRST TIME) THAT POSTURE OF COMPANY IN MEETINGS WITH LIBYANS WOULD BE GUIDED BY RECOMMENDATIONS IN HABIB LETTER. HE NOTED THAT HIS AIM WAS TO MAKE "AN INTELLIGENT AND APPROPRIATE EXIT." HE ADDED THAT, UNLESS SOMETHING CHANGES RADICALLY IN THE SITUATION (I.E. CHANGE IN TUNISIAN POSITION), HE WILL PRESS TO WITHDRAW THE RIG IMMEDIATELY. WE HAVE HAD EARLIER INDICATIONS FROM THE COMPANY THAT THEY WERE COMING AROUND TO THIS POSITION BUT THIS IS THE FURTHEST THEY HAVE EVER GONE IN DISCUSSIONS WITH US. WE ARE SOMEWHAT OPTIMISTIC AS A RESULT, BUT ARE STILL CAUTIOUS RE FINAL OUTCOME. FOREGOING MUST BE HELD CLOSELY WITHIN USG. END FYI) CONFIDENTIAL

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CONTINENTAL SHELF, OFFSHORE DRILLING, DISPUTES, MEETINGS  
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**Decaption Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977STATE129838  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** NAVELIOTES:JD  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Subject:** CONTINENTAL SHELF DISPUTE: MEETING IN LONDON  
**TAGS:** PBOR, PLOS, ENRG, LY, TS, US  
**To:** TUNIS LONDON MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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